

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 15, 2017

Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy  
Acting Secretary of the United States Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310-0101

Dear Acting Secretary McCarthy,

We are writing to encourage the United States Army to not award Private Bowe Bergdahl any back pay prior to or subsequent to separation from the United States Army. While we are happy Private Bergdahl has been returned, the circumstances surrounding his disappearance still remain a concern.

At the very least, we know Private Bergdahl's actions, by his desertion admissions in court, jeopardized the lives of his comrades. However, it is still unclear whether Private Bergdahl may have provided information to his captives further compromising the security of his fellow soldiers throughout the duration of his captivity.

Despite being given a dishonorable discharge and demotion from sergeant to private, he remains eligible for significant back pay. While captive soldiers are typically awarded compensation, Private Bergdahl pleaded guilty to desertion, giving the United States Army the opportunity to determine whether he truly deserves higher payment than the families of those killed in action who were trying to locate him.

As Members of Congress committed to our servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans, we understand the incredible sacrifice that is required of those in uniform. Ensuring the release of American prisoners of war is the least we can do for those who serve our Country to protect our fundamental freedoms. With that said, it is our firm belief Private Bergdahl should not be awarded back pay.

We thank you for your service and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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